

Appl. No. 09/998,715

Amdt. Dated January 24, 2006

Reply to Office Action of October 4, 2005

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office action mailed October 4, 2005. Reexamination and reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-26, 28, 31, and 36-38 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 6, 26, and 31 being the independent claims. Claims 1, 3, 6, 14, 15, 18, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 31, and 26 have been amended, and Claims 2, 7, 28-30, and 32-35 have been canceled herein. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 6, and 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,618,397 (Huang), and Claims 12, 13, 26-29, and 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Huang and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0083344 (Vairavan). These rejections are respectfully traversed, at least in light of the above amendments.

Applicants note that the each of the independent claims has been amended herein to include subject matter that the Examiner indicated was directed to allowable subject matter. As such, the above-noted rejections have been mooted, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the same is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Based on the above, independent Claims 1, 6, 26, and 31 are patentable over the citations of record. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable for the reasons given above with respect to the independent claims and because each recite features which are patentable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

The other art of record is also not understood to disclose or suggest the inventive concept of the present invention as defined by the claims.

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Hence, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

If for some reason Applicant has not paid a sufficient fee for this response, please consider this as authorization to charge Ingrassia, Fisher & Lorenz, Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

INGRASSIA FISHER & LORENZ

Dated: January 24, 2006

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